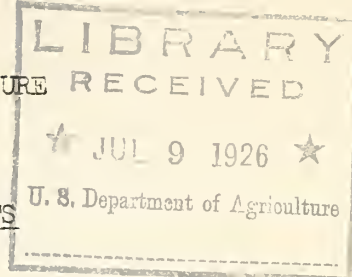


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEYDIRECTIONS FOR POISONING COTTON RATSPreparation of bait:

Mix 1 tablespoonful of gloss starch in 1/4 cup of cold water and stir into 3/4 pint of boiling water to make a clear starch paste. Mix 1 ounce of powdered syrychmine with 1 ounce of baking soda and stir into the starch paste to a smooth, creamy mass, free of lumps. Stir in 1/4 pint of heavy corn sirup and 1 tablespoonful of glycerine. Pour this mixture over 20 quarts of good quality, clean, whole barley and stir thoroughly to coat each kernel. Spread out on newspapers to dry.

Exposing poisoned bait:

Locate cotton-rat runs and place a medium-sized handful of poisoned barley at any point along them. Scatter the bait for a foot or more along the trail to avoid danger of livestock picking it up. Place a bait every 10 to 20 paces along a continuous system of runs and closer where the infestation is unusually heavy. Twenty quarts of poisoned barley should make approximately 1,000 baits.

General suggestions:

Cotton rats live only in areas where the ground cover is sufficiently dense to afford protection. The destruction of such cover by systematic burning or plowing is the most effective control measure, special attention being given to the elimination of cover at the borders of fields, roadways, woods, and in brier, plum, and other thickets. Poisoning may then be confined to cover areas escaping the burning.

In working over extensive areas it is desirable to treat smaller, natural divisions systematically in order that no rat areas may be overlooked. Search for rat-infested areas may be done readily from horseback, detection of suitable cover becoming simple with a little experience. Search for the runways in favorable areas must be done on foot, however, as careful work is necessary in heavy broom sedge, which must often be parted with the foot or a stick to reveal the hidden trails. Occasionally cotton rats may be found in cover sufficiently open close to the ground, so that the trails do not show, their presence being revealed only by droppings, diggings, and cut vegetation. In such cases baits should be exposed at intervals of 20 to 30 paces along parallel lines 20 to 30 paces apart.

Poisoning may be done at any season, but preferably between the conclusion of the burning season and April 15, in order to afford maximum protection to ground-nesting birds from rat depredations.

Caution:

All poisoned baits should be kept plainly labeled and out of reach of children, irresponsible persons, and livestock.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which are arranged in a columnar fashion. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed style. The list appears to be a directory or a roster of some kind.

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